

F-4-90

J. Hanson Shafer Farmstead

Middletown vicinity

Private

Ca. 1830-1930

The J. Hanson Shafer Farmstead contains a circa 1830 brick dwelling with an Italianate bracketed cornice and one-story porch probably added about 1850, with a brick smokehouse, a stone and frame or log springhouse with considerable alterations, and an unused frame and stone bank barn and concrete block milk house. The farmstead is now a private residence and has been restored, although its interior has not been documented in this survey. The Italianate alterations of the house are its principal significance. Many vernacular residences of the second and third quarters of the 19th century have minor details derived from the Italianate style popular during the 1840's and 1850's, primarily a balustraded porch with brackets. The Shafer House details are more prominent and finished and the bracketed cornice is a less-common addition.

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J. Hanson Shafer Farmstead
Middletown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic J. Hanson Shafer Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2817 Marker Road not for publication

city, town Middletown x vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> x occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> x building(s)	<u> </u> x private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> x private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> x yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> x not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ronald D. and Kathryn J. Bassett

street & number 2817 Marker Road telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1358

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 533

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Paul Brinkman (F-1121) & Anthony James (F-3-3) Surveys of Frederick County

date mid and late 1960's federal state x county local

pository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town CRownsville state MD

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-90

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 4

The J. Hanson Shafer Farmstead is an originally agricultural complex now used as a private residence, which is centered on a circa 1830 brick dwelling with Italianate decorative details added about 1850 and a circa 1830 brick smokehouse, a two-level stone and frame or log springhouse with considerable interior and exterior alterations, and a frame and stone bank barn of about 1830 with a circa 1930 concrete block milk house. The farmstead is located on the south side of Marker Road just east of the intersection of Picnic Woods Road about 2 miles west of Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The barn and milk house are located across a small creek to the west of the domestic group and are currently not in use.

The dwelling's principal elevation faces north toward Marker Road and has five bays. The walls are in 5:1 American bond. The entrance is in the center bay and the first story is sheltered by a one-story porch on brick piers, with Italianate brackets, columns, and balustrade. The entrance has a transom and sidelights with paneled bases. Above the 4-panel door is a floriated console hood. The windows have plain lintels and wood sills, with 6/6 sash and louvred shutters. The cornice is bracketed and the roof is covered with composition shingles. The east and west gable ends have interior chimneys with two bays and 2/2 attic windows. A two-story rear wing extends from the southwest corner of the main section, with a single 4-panel door at the southeast corner and a second doorway at the southwest corner which is obscured by vines. In the angle between the main section and rear wing is a two-story open porch with attenuated Tuscan columns and a plain balustrade. The rear of the main section has two doors facing south and the wing has an additional door facing east. The interior of the house was inaccessible for this survey.

Smokehouse: The brick smokehouse is located southeast of the rear wing. Built about 1830 with the dwelling, it has a generally rectangular plan with a vertical board door in the west elevation and vent openings in the north and south gables. The composition shingle roof extends on the south to form an open wood shed.

Springhouse: The springhouse is located southwest of the dwelling. It has a stone lower level, but the upper section is covered with modern pressboard siding, concealing the original structural material, which may be either log or frame. An exterior brick chimney has been rebuilt on the east elevation. A vertical board door is in the north elevation, lower level, with 6-light windows. Two other doors are located in the south and west elevations. The upper level has 6/6 sash. The gable roof is composition shingles. Since much of its original structure is covered or altered, the springhouse's date is obscure, but probably is about 1830 like the main house and the smokehouse.

Barn and milk house: The circa 1830 frame bank barn has a stone foundation and stall level facing east. The upper frame section has vertical siding and the gable roof is corrugated metal. The north end of the upper level and the east elevation have louvred vents with arched frames. On the south gable end is a wagon shed with a single corn crib.

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-90

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1836-1930

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The J. Hanson Shafer Farmstead is principally significant for the Italianate architecture of the main dwelling house, a style which is uncommon in the Middletown Valley for rural locations. The usual vernacular house of the 1850's period is based on the traditional plan, as is the Shafer House, but has fewer decorative conventions such as the bracketed cornice and columned porch. The scroll-sawn balustrade is probably the most common feature of the vernacular interpretation of the Italianate style found in Frederick County. The house may have been built by John Magruder about 1830 or possibly earlier, by Philip Shank. The property became one of several farms owned by George Shafer in 1848 and passed to his son J. Hanson Shafer by will prior to 1858. Both the 1858 and 1873 maps show the house as owned J. H. Shafer or Mrs. M. Shafer, who was his wife, Margaret Shafer. The Italianate details were probably added by J. Hanson Shafer. The property remained in the hands of Shafer descendants until 1975.

J. Hanson Shafer Farmstead
Frederick County

SURVEY No. F-4-90

7.1 Description (Continued)

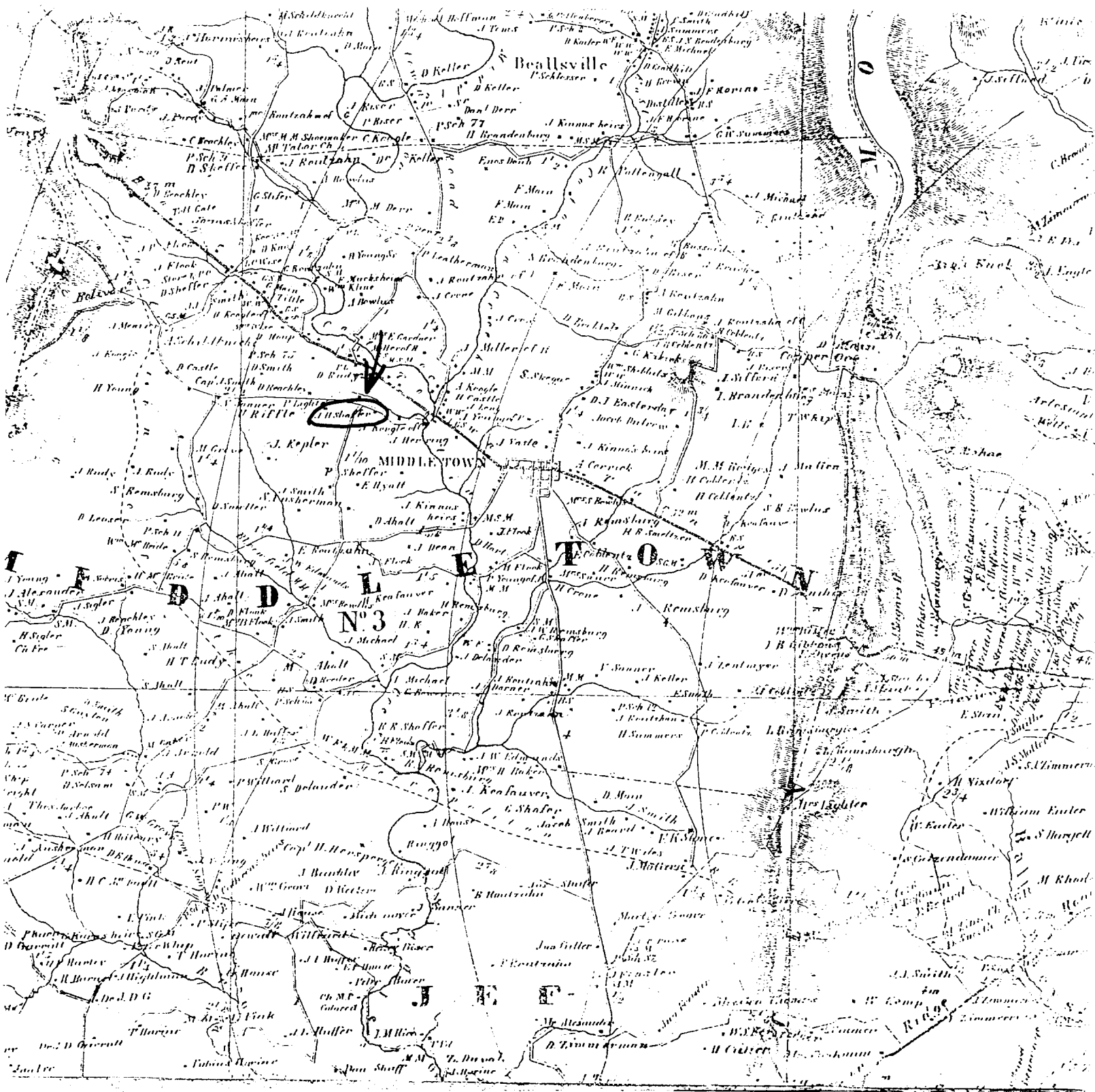
The north end of the stall level is enclosed with concrete block for a milking room and the concrete block milk house built about 1930 is located just north of the barn, adjacent to the milking room. The milk house has a standing seam metal roof and composition-covered gables.

2817 Marker Rd.

LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1358/533 19 Aug 86	Ronald David & Kathryn Jeanette Bassett	Paul & Jeanne Hains	18 A.	\$362,500	
1213/605 28 Sept 83	Paul & Jeanne Hains	Thomas M. & Beverly H. Pass	18 A.		
974/110 12 Nov-75	Thomas M. & Beverly Pass	Ausherman Construction Co.	18 A.		
969/578 15 Sept 75	Ausherman Cants Co.	Herbert D. Morrison esq., trustee, et al Equity # 25461 Lunzie S. Shafer et al.	"Christys Folly" "Cool Spring" 96.7 A.	\$203,000	
JLJ 16/3 18 Mar 1897	Charles H. Shafer	Wm. P. Maulsby, et al, trustees Equity # 6653 Onschoen of Wm. E. Shafer vs. John S. Newman et al	97 A.	\$9,409	
Will Book	Margaret Shafer (wife of J. Hanson Shafer)	J. Hanson Shafer			
Will Book	J. Hanson Shafer (son of George)	George Shafer			

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LIBER/10110	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
WBT 7/24 5 Feb 1848	George Shafer (Shaffer)	Adam & J. C. Lorentz et al, reps. & legal atts of Jacob Lorentz, dec.	19 ¹ / ₄ a. of "Christys Tolly"	#1,165	
HS 19/502 21 Oct 1843	George Shafer	John Baulus	77 ³ / ₄ a. of "Cool Spring"	#4,402.59	
HS 2/213 18 Apr 1836	John Baulus	Daniel Roderick & Catherine Roderick	77 ³ / ₄ a. "Cool Spring"	#4,250	
15 Apr 1836	Daniel Roderick	Joseph M. Pallmer, trustees for sale of John R. Magruder, est.	77 a.		
JS 26/221 12 Sept 1826	John R. Magruder	John Shank & Wm. Michael, Trustees in Equity 19 Jan 1826 to sell estate of Philip Shank, dec.	"Cool Spring"	\$40.16/a.	
WR 5/205 4 Oct 1784	Philip Shank	Joseph Rensch, John Rensch, Andrew Rensch (Rentsch)	"Cool Spring" 75 a.		

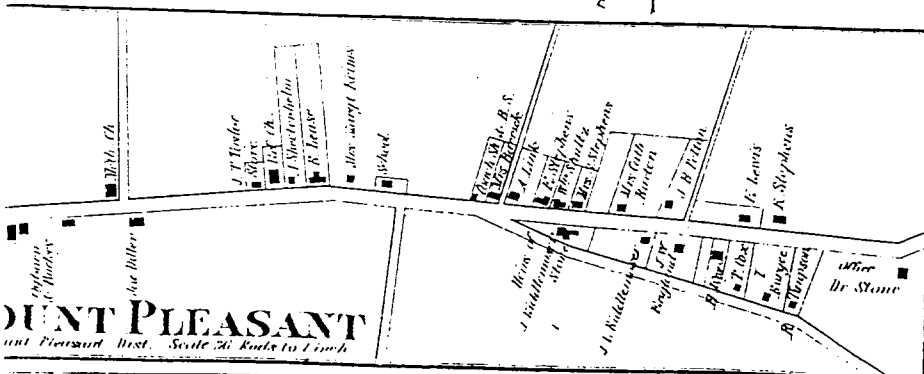


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J. Hanson Shafer Farmstead
Frederick County

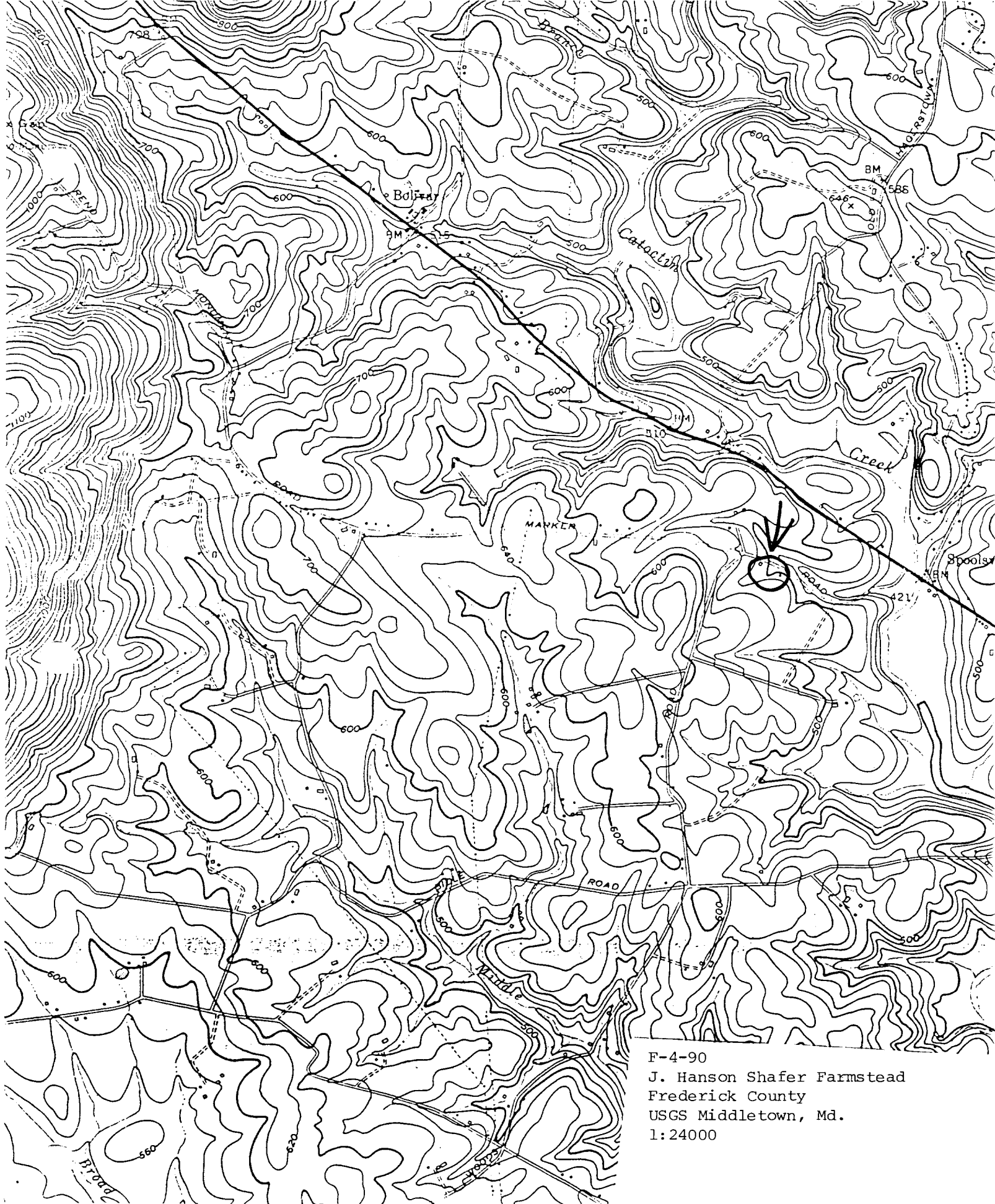
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County, 1858.

Scale 1½ Inches to the Mile



J. Hanson Shafer Farmstead
Frederick County

C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873



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J. Hanson Shafer Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000



P-4-90

J. Hansen Shofer Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md SHPO, Crownsville, Md.
North elevation

1/5



F. 4-90.

J. Hanson Shofer Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Southeast corner view

2/5



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J. Hanson Shofer Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Nea. loc.: Md. SHPO. Crownsville, Md.
Smokehouse west elevation

3/5



F. 4. 90

J. Hanson Shofer Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO. Crownsville Md.
Springhouse, South elevation

4/5



F.4-90

J. Hanson Shofer Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Barr and mth house, east elevation

5/5